

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIS, JA, UR

SUBJECT: US-USSR COOPERATIVE HALIBUT TAGGING PROGRAM

1. US AND USSR HAVE AGREED ON COOPERATIVE HALIBUT TAGGING PROGRAM IN NORTHWEST PACIFIC, INCLUDING BERING SEA, TO DETERMINE EXTENT OF EAST-WEST MIGRATION AND OF INTER-MINGLING OF HALIBUT OF NORTH AMERICAN ORIGIN AND OF ASIAN ORIGIN. STUDY WAS PROPOSED BY US IN VIEW OF CONTINUING DECLINE OF HALIBUT OF NORTH AMERICAN ORIGIN CAUSED BY LARGE INCIDENTAL CATCH OF HALIBUT MADE BY FOREIGN TRAWLERS OPERATING OFF US COAST. MANAGERIAL CONTROLS PRESENTLY IMPOSED IN WATERS ADJACENT TO US TO REDUCE INCIDENTAL CATCH WOULD NOT BE VERY EFFECTIVE IF INDEED HALIBUT OF NORTH AMERICAN ORIGIN MIGRATED IN EXTENSIVE NUMBERS TO WATERS OFF SOVIET COAST SINCE THEY WOULD BE VULNERABLE TO CAPTURE THERE, PARTICULARLY SINCE THERE ARE PRESENTLY NO EFFECTIVE MANAGEMENT REGULATIONS IMPOSED

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BY EITHER SOVIET UNION OR JAPAN TO CONTROL THIS PROBLEM.

INFORMATION PRESENTLY AVAILABLE TO US SCIENTISTS SHOWS THAT SUCH A WESTERLY MIGRATION OF HALIBUT OF NORTH AMERICAN ORIGIN APPEARS TO TAKE PLACE. STUDY AGREED TO BETWEEN US AND USSR IS DESIGNED TO CLARIFY THIS MATTER WHICH IS BEING GIVEN HIGH PRIORITY BY US.

2. US HAS ARRANGED FOR INTERNATIONAL PACIFIC HALIBUT COMMISSION (IPHC) TO REPRESENT US IN COOPERATIVE TAGGING PROGRAM. PLANS CALL FOR SENDING TWO-MAN PARTY TO JAPAN TO SAIL FROM YOKOHAMA TO NAKHODKA IN LATE MAY AND TO RENDEVOUS WITH SOVIET RESEARCH VESSEL SRTM RAKITNYI. HOWEVER, PARTY UNABLE TO OBTAIN RESERVATIONS ON SOVIET CRUISE SHIP E. DZERJINSKY SCHEDULED TO DEPART YOKOHAMA MAY 27 AND ARRIVE NAKHODKA MAY 29.

3. PARTY INCLUDES DR. WM. H. HARDMAN, SENIOR SCIENTIST, IPHC, AND ARTHUR HANSEN, CANADIAN EXPERT LONGLINE FISHERMAN HIRED BY IPHC TO ASSIST IN TAGGING. BOTH HAVE BEEN ISSUED SOVIET VISAS.

4. DEPARTMENT WOULD APPRECIATE ASSISTANCE FROM TOKYO IN SEEKING RESERVATIONS ON DZERJINSKY FOR MAY 27 DEPARTURE FOR SCIENTIFIC PARTY. WE HAVE NOT BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN SECURING RESERVATION THROUGH TRAVEL BUREAU. WE WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE SUGGESTIONS ON HOW PARTY WHICH WILL BE CARRYING LARGE AMOUNT OF GEAR CAN GET TO NAKHODKA FROM JAPAN BY MEANS OF OTHER SURFACE TRANSPORTATION. ANY ASSISTANCE OR GUIDANCE MOSCOW CAN PROVIDE WOULD ALSO BE APPRECIATED. REPLY REQUESTED ASAP.

5. FYI. WE ARE WORKING CLOSELY WITH FISHERIES OFFICIAL IN SOVIET EMBASSY BUT EFFORTS SO FAR NOT VERY PRO-DUCTIVE. APPARENTLY, OFFICIAL IN EMBASSY IN CHARGE OF MATTERS OF THIS NATURE PRESENTLY IN MOSCOW. KISSINGER

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